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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/830,229	04/22/2004	Masayoshi Umeda	42530-7000	7764
21611	7590	06/19/2007	EXAMINER	
SNELL & WILMER LLP (OC) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			KUMAR, KALYANAVENKA K	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3653		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		06/19/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/830,229	UMEDA, MASAYOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kalyan Kumar	3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/22/2004</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8 and 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Furukawa (USP 6,086,472)** in view of **Tokoyoda (USP 6,368,204 B1)**.

3. Regarding claims 1-21, Furukawa discloses a coin separating assembly comprising a coin hopper (11), a coin transporting unit for receiving coins of different size comprising a support surface that is a rotating belt (12), a separating roller unit that rotates opposite the translation direction of the support surface and can move relative to the coin transporting unit is rigidly fixed above the support surface (15), a coin drawing auxiliary unit that moves faster than the coin transporting unit (col. 2, lines 52-53). Furukawa does not disclose the coin transporting unit and the separating roller can move relative for increasing the distance and that the distance between them is less than two times the thickness of the thinnest coin and larger than the thickness of the thickest coin, a coin transporting unit that can resiliently bend down to the coin putting surface in a right angle direction, and a supporter unit comprising a roller member (9a) rotatably mounted on a pivotable lever, which is pivotable and is coaxially to the separating roller and rotates in the opposite direction to the coin transporting unit, and is

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operatively located upstream, the supporter unit being biased, with a spring member, by a predetermined force towards the support surface. Tokoyoda teaches the coin transporting unit and the separating roller can move relative for increasing the distance and that the distance between them is less than two times the thickness of the thinnest coin and larger than the thickness of the thickest coin (col. 4, lines 39-43), a coin transporting unit that can resiliently bend down to the coin putting surface in a right angle direction (the combination of 9a and 9b moving apart), and a supporter unit comprising a roller member (9a) rotatably mounted on a pivotable lever (10), which is pivotable and is coaxially to the separating roller and rotates in the opposite direction to the coin transporting unit (Tokoyoda, 9a and 9b), and is operatively located upstream, the supporter unit being biased, with a spring member, by a predetermined force towards the support surface (14) for the purpose of enlarging and narrowing the separation between the rollers for the coin to pass through (col. 4, lines 39-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Furukawa's coin separating unit with a supporter unit, as taught by Tokoyoda, for the purpose of enlarging and narrowing the separation between the rollers for the coin to pass through.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/12/2007 are ~~moot~~ in light of new rejection.

Regarding rejections under U.S.C. 112

Regarding claims 1-8 and 12, the U.S.C. 112 rejections are withdrawn due to applicant's amendment.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kalyan Kumar whose telephone number is 571-272-8102. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00AM-3:30PM.
5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on 571-272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kalyan Kumar
Examiner
Art Unit 3653



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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